Message Text

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UNCLAS LUSAKA 2387

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BTIO, ZA

SUBJECT: INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY IN ZAMBIAN METAL PROCESSING

1. MINES AND INDUSTRY MINISTRY HAS APPROACHED EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE IN ALERTING U.S. METAL PROCESSORS OF ZAMBIAN INTEREST IN FORMING JOINT VENTURE OPERATION IN (A) PLANT TO FABRICATE BRASS SHEETS AND COILS OR (B) CONTINUOUS CASTING PLANT FOR COPPER RODS. ZAMBIAN PLANS ARE AT VERY EARLY STAGE. PRELIMINARY STUDIES CARRIED OUT WITH UNIDO ASSISTANCE SUGGEST 50,000 TON CAPACITY PLANT IN MINIMUM SIZE THAT COULD PROVE PROFITABLE. ZAMBIA APPEARS FLEXIBLE ON QUESTION OF LOCATION, WITH SOME THOUGHT APPARENTLY GIVEN TO ESTABLISHING WESTERN EUROPEAN PLANT JOINTLY OWNED BY ZAMBIA AND U.S. PARTNERS. PRIME CONCERN IS TO PROTECT COPPER MARKETS AND ZAMBIA APPEARS WILLING TO EXPLORE NON-ZAMBIAN BASED OPERATION IF SUCH CAN BE JUSTIFIED ECONOMICALLY.

2. PROPOSED PLANT WOULD BE ENTIRELY SEPARATE FROM PRESENT ZAMEFA PLANT WHICH HAS PHELPS-DODGE PARTICIPATION. REQUEST COMMERCE ALERT POTENTIAL U.S. PARTNERS AND SUGGEST THEY CONTACT MINISTER OF MINES AND INDUSTRY, ANDREW KASHITA, BOX 1969, LUSAKA, ZAMBIA.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

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Subject: INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY IN ZAMBIAN METAL PROCESSING

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